



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Council President Valerie Ervin

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County Council President Valerie Ervin's Statement on State Board of Education's Decision Regarding Maintenance of Effort

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 25, 2011—Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin's statement on the State Board of Education decision issued today that said the state Maintenance of Effort law regarding education funding by local jurisdictions was not intended to eliminate the Council's authority to reduce the school system's budget request:

The complete text of Council President Ervin's statement:

"In its decision today the State Board of Education confirmed that the state Maintenance of Effort (MOE) law was not intended to eliminate the Council's authority to reduce the school system's budget request. This decision, in essence, allows the Council to reset the schools' budget in a way that will not starve the rest of County government. The school system had contended that the Council did not have the authority to reduce its budget below the level that the County Executive recommended, but the State Board unanimously rejected that argument.

"With this legal issue, which the County Board of Education initiated, resolved, we look forward to working collaboratively with the board and the new superintendent to maintain the school system's world-class quality and assure a stable, sustainable future for our schools and all other County agencies. I want to recognize County Attorney Marc Hansen and the Council's legal staff for their efforts in resolving this critical issue."

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